

Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation

The Washington State Legislature established the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) in 1998 to improve coordination among those whose clients have special transportation needs and those who provide and purchase the transportation.

Persons with special transportation needs are defined in statute as those persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.

2001 Achievements

- Provided 20 counties with technical assistance and coordination grants to establish broad-based community coalitions charged with the task of developing coordinated special needs transportation systems.
- Convened several task specific workgroups in order to dismantle various barriers to coordinated transportation. These workgroups included:
 - Volunteer Workgroup — Many providers rely on volunteer drivers to transport people with special needs. This workgroup focuses on creating common operating standards when using volunteers.
 - Insurance Workgroup — It has become more expensive for special needs transportation providers, to cover their vehicles. This group, headed by Community Transportation Association-Northwest Chapter (CTA-NW), looks into creating a pool to lower insurance rates.
 - Transportation Costs Workgroup — This priority group focuses on identifying and tracking transportation services and costs.
- Held monthly meetings of the PACT Forum, a workgroup consisting of representatives from all the state programs that provide or fund transportation programs, purchase or arrange transportation on behalf of clients.

- Created guidelines for state agencies to use in developing their own transportation coordination policies, rules, and procedures.
- Applied for, received, and managed a statewide Job Access and Reverse Commute grant to enhance transportation opportunities for TANF and low-income people who need to get to jobs, day care, and employment support services.
- Enhanced the ACCT web page for disseminating information about transportation coordination (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ACCT>).
- Engaged in outreach to advocacy groups, associations, and organizations to educate people on the value of coordination and to ask for their support and involvement in ACCT activities.

2002 Objectives

- Help state agencies to develop their transportation coordination policies, rules, and procedures.
- Develop guidelines for setting performance measures and evaluating performance.
- Provide technical assistance and grants to assist the 20 ACCT counties in developing and implementing their coordinated transportation systems
- Partner with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in supporting an individual's choice to live in community settings by developing transportation options for such individuals.
- Complete all workgroup tasks.
- Convene a medicaid workgroup to address the barriers that exist in coordinating rides with medicaid clients who receive non-emergency medical transportation. The product of the group will be a demonstration project to show the benefits to all coordinating programs.

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- Convene a school transportation workgroup to create a tool to use when speaking with individual schools districts about the benefits of coordination.
- Secure funding and participate with the Oregon Department of Transportation in the development of a two-state automated trip planner.
- Identify additional barriers to coordination and forming workgroups to resolve them.
- Apply for additional grants to support coordination activities.
- Complete biennial report to the Washington State Legislature.